

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marfa Border Patrol Seizes Over Two Tons Of Marijuana
Alpine, Sierra Blanca Agents Make Seizures

MARFA, Texas – Agents of the U.S. Border Patrol Marfa Sector seized over 4,000 pounds of marijuana in two incidents last weekend. During one of the seizures, Agents had to fire their weapons to protect themselves from being run down.

About 9 a.m. Saturday morning, Agents from the Alpine Station were alerted to an unauthorized vehicle on private property in central Brewster County. Agents located a 1995 Ford pickup truck and tried to stop the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle tried to evade the agents and crashed the truck into an arroyo. Agents located and arrested the driver and seized 3,125 pounds of marijuana valued at \$2,500,640.

Agents also recognized and arrested the owner of the pickup truck and another man who were waiting for the drug load on Highway 90 east of Alpine. All three men, two vehicles and the marijuana were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

About 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Agents of the Sierra Blanca Station encountered a 1999 Chevrolet pickup truck near Neely's crossing in Hudspeth County. The driver of the vehicle turned around in an attempt to cross the Rio Grande River into Mexico. Agents tried to stop the driver by putting out a tire deflation device. Before the agents could deploy the device, the driver attempted to run down the agents with the truck. Agents fired their weapons at the truck to stop it and to protect themselves. The truck made it to the river, where the driver got out and fled into Mexico. No Border Patrol agents were injured, but they did find traces of fresh blood on the driver's side floor of the vehicle.

The vehicle contained 1,145.14 pounds of marijuana worth \$916,112. The vehicle had been stolen in Albuquerque, N.M. The vehicle and the drugs were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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